

We Claim:

- 1 1. A method for using and creating a plurality of applications within a unified
2 application environment, the method comprising:
3 creating one application that includes a graphical user-interface;
4 wherein said one application is adapted for using and managing said plurality
5 of applications through said graphical user-interface; and
6 wherein said graphical user-interface is the only user-interface seen by a
7 user and obviates the use of individual graphical user-interfaces that
8 are associated with any one of said plurality of applications.
- 1 2. A computer system suitable for controlling a plurality of applications, said
2 computer system comprising:
3 a unified application interface enabling a user to access data and logic from a
4 plurality of applications via said unified application interface;
5 an application control process operable to implement instructions received
6 from said user via said unified application interface, said application control process
7 delegating instructions received from said user to a suitable one of said plurality of
8 applications, whereby said user is able to utilize logic and data of said applications
9 through said unified application interface rather than through native interfaces of
10 said plurality of applications;
11 a linked application database for maintaining data provided by said plurality
12 of applications, access and management of said linked application database
13 controlled by said application control process; and
14 wherein said unified application interface, said application control process,
15 and said linked application database are context sensitive and are programmable
16 via said unified application interface.

1 3. A computer system as recited in claim 38, wherein said application control
2 process populates said linked application database with data and linking information
3 related to said plurality of applications.

1 4. A computer system as recited in claim 38, wherein said application control
2 process is capable of opening within said unified application interface a native
3 interface associated with a one of said plurality of applications.

1 5. A computer system as recited in claim 38, wherein said unified application
2 interface process and said application control process are a single logical unit.

1 6. A computer system as recited in claim 38, wherein said plurality of
2 applications are distributed across a plurality of computers.

1 7. A computer system suitable for providing a plurality of clients access to a
2 plurality of distributed applications, each client having a unified application interface:

3 at least one client computer including:

4 a unified application interface enabling a user to access data and logic
5 from a plurality of distributed applications via said unified application interface;

6 a proxy for an application control process located on a server, said
7 proxy coupled to said unified application interface; and

8 a linked database component under control of said application control
9 process;

10 said server computer including:

11 said application control process operable to implement instructions
12 received from said plurality of users, said application control process delegating
13 instructions received from said users to a suitable one of said plurality of distributed
14 applications, said application control process coupled to said proxy; and

15 a linked application database controlled by said application control
16 process, said linked application database synchronized with said linked database
17 component; and

18 a network coupling said at least one client computer and said server
19 computer.

1 8. A computer system as recited in claim 43, wherein said proxy and said
2 application control process are components of a peer-to-peer system.

1 9. A computer system as recited in claim 43, wherein said at least one client
2 includes a private database having access rights controlled by said at least one
3 client.

1 10. A computer system for providing network services to a plurality of clients,
2 said computer system comprising:

3 a server computer including:

4 an application control process operable to implement instructions
5 received from a plurality of users, said application control process delegating
6 instructions received from said users to a suitable one of a plurality of distributed
7 applications;

8 a linked application database controlled by said application control
9 process, said linked application storing data and accessible to said plurality of
10 distributed applications;

11 a presentation server operable to provide a unified application
12 interface to a remote client;

13 said remote client capable of generating a display window provided by said
14 presentation server; and

15 a coupling between said server computer and said remote client.

1 11. A computer system as recited in claim 46, wherein said remote client is a
2 dummy computer terminal.

1 12. A computer system as recited in claim 46, wherein said remote client is a
2 Rich Internet Application.

1 13. A computer system as recited in claim 46, wherein said remote client is a
2 Citrix client.

1 14. A method in a computing system for enabling a plurality of projects, the
2 method comprising:
3 creating a unified user-interface for defining a template comprising one or
4 more tasks for at least one project from said plurality of projects;
5 defining project data that is associated with said at least one project;
6 linking said project data such that said one or more tasks associated with
7 said at least one project and other tasks associated with related
8 projects share a unified view of said project data;
9 adapting said unified user-interface to allow:
10 display and selection of said at least one project;
11 display of and selection for performing said one or more tasks from
12 said template; and

13 display and selection of one or more data fields that are based on said
14 selected task and that are associated with one more application
15 programs used for performing said selected task; and
16 wherein said unified user-interface is adapted for automatically executing
17 said one or more computer application programs for performing said
18 selected task.

1 15. The method of Claim 1, wherein adapting said unified user-interface to allow
2 display and selection further comprises using one or more multipurpose GUI
3 boxes that can be used for:
4 performing a search;
5 inputting data;
6 listing data;
7 listing options; and
8 listing functions.

1 16. The method of Claim 1, wherein said unified user-interface is further adapted
2 to allow display of results from completion of said selected task.

1 17. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2 developing rule sets for managing project data.

1 18. The method of Claim 4, wherein said rule sets include rules for:

2 parsing information in received data for purposes of updating project data,
3 wherein said received data is received in response to said one or
4 more tasks in said at least one project.

1 19. The method of Claim 4, wherein said rule sets include rules for:
2 parsing information in received data for purposes of determining with which
3 project said received data is to be associated.

1 20. The method of Claim 4, wherein said rule sets include rules for:
2 storing received data in a manner such that said received data is associated
3 with said at least one project, wherein said received data is received in
4 response to said one or more tasks in said at least one project.

1 21. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2 re-designating one or more components of said project data to a pre-
3 determined different project when a pre-determined set of project-
4 designation rules are satisfied.

1 22. The method of Claim 1, wherein linking further comprises:
2 triggering performance of one or more of said other tasks associated with
3 said related projects.

1 23. The method of Claim 1, wherein performing said selected task includes at
2 least one of:

3 receiving received data wherein said received data is received in response to
4 performing said one or more tasks and is automatically integrated into
5 said project data; and
6 modifying one or more values corresponding to said one or more data fields
7 associated with said application programs.

1 24. The method of Claim 1, wherein said unified user-interface is further adapted
2 for allowing display and selection for execution of:
3 one or more operating system commands; and
4 one or more external computer application programs that are incidental to
5 performing said selected task.

1 25. The method of Claim 11, wherein said one or more external computer
2 application programs include:
3 a facsimile application program;
4 a telephone application program;
5 a web access application program; and
6 a calculator application program.

1 26. The method of Claim 1, wherein said unified user-interface is further adapted
2 for displaying a next calendared event.

1 27. The method of Claim 13, wherein said next calendared event is associated
2 with one of said plurality of projects.

- 1 28. The method of Claim 13, wherein said next calendared event is independent
2 of said plurality of projects.
- 1 29. The method of Claim 1, wherein said data fields includes a status data field
2 for designating a status of said project.
- 1 30. The method of Claim 1, wherein said unified user-interface displays task
2 instructions for performing said selected task.
- 1 31. The method of Claim 1, wherein said unified user-interface is adapted for
2 displaying project description and global instructions.
- 1 32. The method of Claim 1, wherein said unified user-interface selectively
2 displays said one or more data fields based on access and control rights of a
3 user who is using said interface.
- 1 33. The method of Claim 1, further comprising defining access and control rights
2 associated with said plurality of projects.
- 1 34. The method of Claim 1, further comprising defining access and control rights
2 associated with said one or more data fields.
- 1 35. The method of Claim 1, further comprising defining access and control rights
2 for creating any new projects.
- 1 36. The method of Claim 1, further comprising defining access and control rights
2 for creating any new tasks.

- 1 37. The method of Claim 1, further comprising defining access and control rights
2 for modifying said plurality of projects.
- 1 38. The method of Claim 1, further comprising defining access and control rights
2 for modifying said one or more tasks.
- 1 39. The method of Claim 1, wherein said one or more data fields are adapted to
2 being de-activated or re-activated by a user.
- 1 40. The method of Claim 1, further comprising creating default values for said
2 one or more data fields.
- 1 41. The method of Claim 1, wherein said one or more computer application
2 programs and said one or more data fields are accessed via the Internet.
- 1 42. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions
2 for managing employee data, wherein execution of the one or more
3 sequences of instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more
4 processors to perform:
5 extracting employee position management information in a first form that is
6 associated with a first source computerized employee position
7 management system;
8 converting the employee position management information in the first form
9 into employee position management information that is in a second
10 intermediate form; and

11 converting the employee position management information in the second
12 intermediate form into employee position management information in
13 a target form that corresponds to a target computerized employee
14 position management system.